

**San Antonio, TX** - This morning, Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) participated in a field hearing hosted by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives. At the hearing, titled "2010 Census: Reducing the Undercount in the Hispanic Community," the Subcommittee examined the United States Census Bureau's plans to work with community organizations and state and local governments to ensure that Hispanics and other minorities will be accurately counted in the 2010 census. The hearing featured testimony from both federal and local officials who stressed the importance of actively engaging community partnerships early in the preparation stages of the 2010 Census which will help ensure an accurate and thorough count.

Rep. Gonzalez issued the following statement on the hearing:

"The data gathered in the 2010 census effort will play a vital role in numerous federal affairs including the appointment of Congressional districts and the allocation of federal resources - both of which will have a significant impact on minority communities in America. The exponential growth of the Hispanic community in specific makes it all the more important that the census results in a thorough and accurate count in 2010.

While it's worthy to note the progress that has been made as the Census Bureau prepares for the 2010 count, the fact remains that there is much work left to be done. In addition to making sure that proper resources are in place for the Bureau's efforts, we must work to create and actively engage community partnerships through out the entire process.

The early stages of this process are already underway and for that, I applaud efforts by the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and both national and local community organizations. All the testimony delivered this morning, specifically remarks delivered by City Council Member Kevin Wolff, Steven Saldana, President of the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, and Lydia Camarillo of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, reiterated the importance of this aspect of the Census's program. Each have already displayed tremendous leadership on this issue and the roles they will play in San Antonio are critical; without their involvement at the local level, we cannot ensure successful participation by minority communities and as a result, we cannot ensure an accurate count.

I'm grateful for Chairman Clay and his leadership on this issue as it holds great importance in minority communities in San Antonio and across the country. The Subcommittee's efforts to address these concerns at the early stages of the process are worthy of much praise, and I am confident that their hard work will continue in the future to ensure an accurate and thorough count in 2010."

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